

5.05 The Agency will also expect confirmation that the transmission equipment which will be used will meet the relevant performance specification; only approved equipment will be licensed for operation. A performance specification for analogue transmitters (MPT 1550) is available from the Radiocommunications Agency but this does not preclude the use of digital technology (and/or proposals for using radio for interactive purposes) which will be considered by the Agency. A provisional channel plan for maximising the use of the 40 GHz band is contained in Annex 1. This plan is not mandatory, however, and, as with any other aspects of their proposals for making use of radio, potential applicants may wish to discuss informally with the Radiocommunications Agency any suggested variance in advance of making their application.

#### Applications for Wireless Telegraphy Licences

5.06 Following advice from the Radiocommunications Agency concerning the acceptability of the technical plan, for the purpose of considering the award of the local delivery licence in accordance with Section 75(1)(a) of the Broadcasting Act, the ITC may conclude that it appears that the proposed system would be acceptable to the Radiocommunications Agency.

5.07 For the avoidance of doubt, however, the acceptance of the technical plan by the ITC does not imply that Wireless Telegraphy licences will necessarily be issued following receipt of an application from the operator of the relevant wireless telegraphy stations.

5.08 A Wireless Telegraphy licence will only be issued if there is radio spectrum available in the proposed area of operation which can be used without causing undue interference to others and without itself being unduly interfered with. Applications for Wireless Telegraphy licences will need to provide the information referred to in para. 5.09 below so that the Secretary of State can determine this matter.

#### Information required

5.09 An application for a Wireless Telegraphy licence should include:

- i) details of the proposed sites of all WT transmitters (quoting Ordnance Survey Grid references of sites or latitude and longitude);
- ii) the height of the site(s) (expressed in metres above mean sea level), the proposed heights of antennas (expressed in meters above ground level), and the azimuthal angles of directional antennas specified for each site;
- iii) for each site identified in (i) and (ii) the proposed frequencies, power levels, polarisation of emissions, and the radiation patterns envisaged from each antenna;
- iv) a map indicating the proposed limit of service of each WT transmitter on a scale of 1:25000 and a composite map indicating the total coverage expected

from all proposed WT transmitters for the franchise on a scale of 1:50000, 1:100000 or 1:250000. The background maps provided for these limit of service contours should show the Ordnance Survey Grid.

#### Duration of licences

5.10 A Wireless Telegraphy Act Licence will run in parallel with that issued by the ITC - typically in the first instance for 15 years, unless in the meanwhile it lapses or is otherwise revoked. Additional time may be provided at the start of the licence period to allow the operator to test the installation.

#### Terms and conditions of the Wireless Telegraphy Licence

5.11 The licence will permit the licensee to establish and use specified transmitters within the franchise area. The licence will lay down the authorised parameters for such operations - based on the information provided in accordance with paragraph 5.09 above. Once issued the WT licence would permit the operation of the proposed stations, subject to any modifications which might be necessary to avoid undue interference.

5.12 The terms of the licence will require the licensee to ensure that the WT apparatus is designed, constructed, maintained and used so that it does not cause any undue interference to any other radio operators. The licence will require compliance with the appropriate performance specification. The licensee will be required to permit agents of the Secretary of State to have access to any WT station to verify compliance with the terms of the licence or to investigate radio interference problems. If necessary the licensee must close down any station which is operating in breach of the licence.

#### Licence fee

5.13 A Wireless Telegraphy licence fee is payable annually (in advance). The fee reflects the costs of issuing and enforcing the licence (including making frequencies available to local delivery operators at particular locations, monitoring the frequency and dealing with interference problems). Failure to pay the licence fee on or before the due date leads automatically to termination of the licence.

5.14 The initial annual fee for a WT licence is shown in the following table:

<u>Total number of homes in franchise area</u>	<u>WT licence fee</u>
Up to 50,000	£ 8,000
50,001 to 150,000	£16,000
150,001 to 250,000	£24,000
250,001 to 350,000	£32,000
350,001 to 450,000	£48,000

5.15 For a new service, such as MVDS, it is naturally difficult to predict all the costs precisely at the outset, and it is possible that in future years the fees (and indeed the whole fee structure) might need to be revised in the light of experience. Should any significant change be envisaged, the Radiocommunications Agency will consult licensees before any change is finalised.

#### Revocation

5.16 Licences may be revoked by the Secretary of State in accordance with Section 1(4) of the Wireless Telegraphy Act. Notice of such revocation would be given to the licensee in writing or by a general notice published by means of an authorised broadcast and/or an insertion in the London, Edinburgh and Belfast Gazettes.

### A Provisional Channel Plan for MVDS

<u>Horizontal polarisation</u>		<u>Vertical polarisation</u>	
<u>Channel</u> <u>Number</u>	<u>Nominal</u> <u>Centre frequency</u> <u>of channel</u> <u>(GHz)</u>	<u>Channel</u> <u>Number</u>	<u>Nominal</u> <u>Centre frequency</u> <u>of channel</u> <u>(GHz)</u>
1	40.53500	2	40.54975
3	40.56450	4	40.57925
5	40.59400	6	40.60875
7	40.62350	8	40.63825
9	40.65300	10	40.66775
11	40.68250	12	40.69725
13	40.71200	14	40.72675
15	40.74150	16	40.75625
17	40.77100	18	40.78575
19	40.80050	20	40.81525
21	40.83000	22	40.84475
23	40.85950	24	40.87425
25	40.88900	26	40.90375
27	40.91850	28	40.93325
29	40.94800	30	40.96275
31	40.97750	32	40.99225
33	41.00700	34	41.02175
35	41.03650	36	41.05125
37	41.06600	38	41.08075
39	41.09550	40	41.11025
41	41.12500	42	41.13975
43	41.15450	44	41.16925
45	41.18400	46	41.19875
47	41.21350	48	41.22825
49	41.24300	50	41.25775
51	41.27250	52	41.28725
53	41.30200	54	41.31675
55	41.33150	56	41.34625
57	41.36100	58	41.37575
59	41.39050	60	41.40525
61	41.42000	62	41.43475
63	41.44950	64	41.46425

<u>Horizontal polarisation</u>		<u>Vertical polarisation</u>	
<u>Channel</u> <u>Number</u>	<u>Nominal</u> <u>Centre frequency</u> <u>of channel</u> <u>(GHz)</u>	<u>Channel</u> <u>Number</u>	<u>Nominal</u> <u>Centre frequency</u> <u>of channel</u> <u>(GHz)</u>
65	41.53500	66	41.54975
67	41.56450	68	41.57925
69	41.59400	70	41.60875
71	41.62350	72	41.63825
73	41.65300	74	41.66775
75	41.68250	76	41.69725
77	41.71200	78	41.72675
79	41.74150	80	41.75625
81	41.77100	82	41.78575
83	41.80050	84	41.81525
85	41.83000	86	41.84475
87	41.85950	88	41.87425
89	41.88900	90	41.90375
91	41.91850	92	41.93325
93	41.94800	94	41.96275
95	41.97750	96	41.99225
97	42.00700	98	42.02175
99	42.03650	100	42.05125
101	42.06600	102	42.08075
103	42.09550	104	42.11025
105	42.12500	106	42.13975
107	42.15450	108	42.16925
109	42.18400	110	42.19875
111	42.21350	112	42.22825
113	42.24300	114	42.25775
115	42.27250	116	42.28725
117	42.30200	118	42.31675
119	42.33150	120	42.34625
121	42.36100	122	42.37575
123	42.39050	124	42.40525
125	42.42000	126	42.43475
127	42.44950	128	42.46425

**PRO-FORMA: PROFIT & LOSS PROJECTIONS**  
**(1995 PRICES)**

	Calendar Yr in which licence (i.e. service) <u>begins</u> <u>£'000</u>	<u>Etc</u>	Calendar Yr in which licence ends <u>£'000</u>
<b><u>Gross Revenue</u></b>			
<b>Programme Services Revenue:</b>			
Subscriptions			
Pay-per-view			
Related equipment charges			
Advertising revenue			
Other service delivery related revenue	_____		_____
Installation Charges			
Other programme services revenue	_____		_____
TOTAL PROGRAMME SERVICES REVENUE	=====		=====
<b>Telecom Services Revenue:</b>			
Rental			
Call charges			
Installation charges			
Interconnection revenue			
Other service-related revenue	_____		_____
TOTAL TELECOM SERVICE REVENUE	=====		=====
Other revenue	_____		_____
TOTAL REVENUE	=====		=====

**PRO-FORMA: PROFIT & LOSS PROJECTIONS** (Continued)  
**(1995 PRICES)**

	<u>Calendar Yr</u> <u>in which</u> <u>licence begins</u> <u>£'000</u>	<u>Etc</u>	<u>Calendar Yr</u> <u>in which</u> <u>licence ends</u> <u>£'000</u>
<b><u>Costs</u></b>			
Cost of programmes			
Telecom interconnection costs	_____		_____
Network operations			
Sales and marketing			
Administration			
Depreciation and leasing			
Overheads			
Other operating costs	_____		_____
	=====		=====
<b><u>Operating Profit</u></b>			
Additional payments (percentage of qualifying revenue)			
Investment income and interest receivable			
Interest payable			
Other items	_____		_____
Profit before cash bid and tax	=====		=====
Cash Bid			
Dividends			
Tax	_____		_____
	=====		=====

**PRO-FORMA: CASH FLOW PROJECTIONS****(1995 PRICES)**

	<u>1995</u>		<u>Etc</u>	<u>2012</u>
	<u>Q1</u>	<u>Q2</u>		
	<u>£'000</u>	<u>£'000</u>		<u>£'000</u>
<b><u>Trading Receipts</u></b>				
Programme services				
Telecom services				
Other income				
Interest receivable				
VAT				
Total	<u>          </u>	<u>          </u>	<u>          </u>	<u>          </u>
<b><u>Trading Payments</u></b>				
Programme costs				
Interconnection costs				
Percentage of qualifying revenue				
Other operating costs				
Interest payable				
VAT				
Total	<u>          </u>	<u>          </u>	<u>          </u>	<u>          </u>
<b><u>Net Trading Receipts</u></b>				



PRO-FORMA: CASH FLOW PROJECTIONS (continued)(1995 PRICES)

	<u>1995</u>		<u>Etc</u>	<u>2012</u>
	<u>Q1</u>	<u>Q2</u>		
	<u>£'000</u>	<u>£'000</u>		<u>£'000</u>
<u>Other Receipts</u>				
Share capital				
Loan drawdowns				
Other				
Total	<u>      </u>	<u>      </u>	<u>      </u>	<u>      </u>
<u>Other Payments</u>				
Net fixed asset additions (development)				
Net fixed asset additions (other)				
Development expenditure				
Loan repayments				
Other				
Tax, cash bid and dividends	<u>      </u>	<u>      </u>	<u>      </u>	<u>      </u>
Total	<u>      </u>	<u>      </u>	<u>      </u>	<u>      </u>
<u>Net Cash Inflow/(Outflow)</u>				
<u>Opening Cash Balance</u>				
<u>Closing Cash Balance</u>	<u>      </u>	<u>      </u>	<u>      </u>	<u>      </u>
 Balance of available finance	<u>      </u>	<u>      </u>	<u>      </u>	<u>      </u>

## APPENDIX G



*Independent Television Commission*

Direct Line 0171 306 7743  
0171 306 7744

24/95

20 March 1995

**A NEW LOCAL DELIVERY FRANCHISE FOR WYTHALL**

The Members of the Independent Television Commission agreed at their meeting of 16 March to invite applications for a local delivery franchise for Wythall in the District of Bromsgrove.

The licence area is defined as those parts of the Civil Parish of Wythall in the District of Bromsgrove (Hereford and Worcester) not included in the existing Birmingham broadband cable franchise. The advertised area comprises about 4,300 homes, but it is for each applicant to decide for which parts of the area to apply. Applications must be submitted to the ITC by 12 June 1995.

The ITC has set percentages of qualifying revenue as the minimum price to be paid by any successful applicant for this franchise. The percentages are 0% for years 1 to 2, 1% for years 3 to 5, 3% for years 6 to 10 and 8% for years 11 to 15.

Qualifying revenue for these purposes is specified by the Broadcasting Act 1990 as being that revenue associated with the delivery of programme services. Revenues from telephony are not included. Applicants must specify the annual cash bid by which they will supplement the percentages of revenue payable to the Exchequer. In normal circumstances, if the applications are judged to be satisfactory, the franchise will be awarded to the highest bidder.

A local delivery franchise is the new equivalent of a cable franchise, enabling a local operator to provide cable television and telecommunications services within the area concerned, utilising not only cable but microwave frequencies in the 40GHz band.

Guidance notes for applicants, containing fuller details of the requirements and the process, are available from the ITC.



*Independent Television Commission*

Direct Line 0171 306 7743  
0171 306 7744

22/95

13 March 1995

## **APPLICATIONS RECEIVED FOR TWO NOTTINGHAMSHIRE FRANCHISES**

By the deadline of noon on 13 March, the ITC had received one application each for the local delivery franchises for Bassetlaw and Ravenshead.

The applicants, and the amount of their cash bids, are:

### **Bassetlaw**

Diamond Cable (Bassetlaw) Ltd, proposing to serve 32,800 residential premises and 1,050 business premises by the year 2000: a cash bid of £1,666.66.

### **Ravenshead**

Diamond Cable (Ravenshead) Ltd, proposing to serve 2,500 residential premises and 25 business premises by the end of 1996: a cash bid of £1.66.

Both companies are wholly owned subsidiaries of Diamond Cable (Nottingham) Ltd, which is in turn a wholly-owned subsidiary of Diamond Cable Communications PLC. The company already operates seven franchises in the East Midlands, centred on Nottingham.

The cash bid (representing a lump sum to be paid every year) supplements the percentages of qualifying revenue already set by the ITC which are, for Bassetlaw, 0% for the first five years, 2% for the second period of five years and 4% for the last five years of the fifteen year local delivery licence and, for Ravenshead, 0% for the first five years, 1% for the second period of five years and 3% for the last five years. These monies accrue to the Treasury.

Further details of the applications, and in particular of the technical plan proposed by the applicant, may be inspected from Wednesday 15 March in the ITC library at its Foley Street headquarters and in each of the ITC regional offices.

The next step is for the ITC to consult with the Telecommunications and Posts Division of the Department of Trade and Industry and the Office of Telecommunications (OfTel) to establish that the technical plans proposed by the applicants are acceptable to them. The ITC must also be satisfied that the proposed telecommunication system is in each case capable of being established in accordance with the timetable proposed and that the applicants will be able to maintain the service throughout the period of the licence. For this purpose, the ITC will be evaluating the confidential business plans submitted by the applicants, and may seek additional information if that course appears necessary.

The Broadcasting Act provides that, if the technical plans are acceptable and it appears to the ITC that each applicant would be able to maintain the service throughout the franchise period, the licence would normally be awarded to the highest bidder. There is no programme or service quality threshold to be satisfied.

The ITC hopes to be in a position to announce its decision in the Summer.

**Notes to editors**

1. The invitation to apply for the local delivery franchises for Ravenshead and Bassetlaw was issued on 16 December 1994.
2. The areas for which applications were invited consisted effectively of the area between the existing franchises for Doncaster and Rotherham and Mansfield and Newark for the Bassetlaw franchise and between the Mansfield, Newark and Nottingham franchises for Ravenshead.
3. Press enquiries regarding the applications themselves should be directed to:-

Gary L Davis  
Managing Director  
Diamond Cable Communications PLC  
Regency House  
2A Sherwood Rise  
Nottingham NG7 6JN

Tel: 0115 952 2240  
Fax: 0115 952 2211

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*Independent Television Commission*

Direct Line 0171 306 7743  
0171 306 7744

16/95

17 February 1995

**A NEW LOCAL DELIVERY FRANCHISE FOR THE CITY AND  
DISTRICT OF CARLISLE**

The Members of the Independent Television Commission agreed at their meeting on 16 February to invite applications for a local delivery franchise for the City and District of Carlisle.

The advertised area consists the City and District of Carlisle in Cumbria. It is for applicants to decide for which parts of this franchise they wish to apply. Applications must be submitted to the ITC by 15 May 1995.

The ITC has set percentages of qualifying revenue as the minimum price to be paid by any successful applicant for this franchise. The percentages are 0% for years 1 to 5, 1% for years 6-10 and 4% for years 11-15.

Qualifying revenue for these purposes is specified by the Broadcasting Act 1990 as being that revenue associated with the delivery of programme services. Revenues from telephony are not included. Applicants must specify the annual cash bid by which they will supplement the percentages of revenue payable to the Exchequer. In normal circumstances, if the applications are judged to be satisfactory, each franchise will be awarded to the highest bidder.

A local delivery franchise is the new equivalent of a cable franchise, enabling a local operator to provide cable television and telecommunications services within the area concerned, utilising not only cable but microwave frequencies in the 40GHz band.

Guidance notes for applicants, containing fuller details of the requirements and the process, are available from the ITC.



*Independent Television Commission*

Direct Line 0171 306 7743  
0171 306 7744

15/95

17 February 1995

**A NEW LOCAL DELIVERY FRANCHISE FOR SHREWSBURY, BRIDGNORTH  
AND SOUTH STAFFORDSHIRE**

The Members of the Independent Television Commission agreed at their meeting on 16 February to invite applications for a local delivery franchise for Shrewsbury, Bridgnorth and South Staffordshire.

The advertised area consists the Borough of Shrewsbury and Atcham, the District of Bridgnorth, and the District of South Staffordshire, but excluding the existing broadband cable franchises of Telford and Stafford. It is for applicants to decide for which parts of this franchise they wish to apply. Applications must be submitted to the ITC by 15 May 1995.

The ITC has set percentages of qualifying revenue as the minimum price to be paid by any successful applicant for this franchise. The percentages are 0% for years 1 to 5, 2% for years 6-10 and 5% for years 11-15.

Qualifying revenue for these purposes is specified by the Broadcasting Act 1990 as being that revenue associated with the delivery of programme services. Revenues from telephony are not included. Applicants must specify the annual cash bid by which they will supplement the percentages of revenue payable to the Exchequer. In normal circumstances, if the applications are judged to be satisfactory, each franchise will be awarded to the highest bidder.

A local delivery franchise is the new equivalent of a cable franchise, enabling a local operator to provide cable television and telecommunications services within the area concerned, utilising not only cable but microwave frequencies in the 40GHz band.

Guidance notes for applicants, containing fuller details of the requirements and the process, are available from the ITC.



*Independent Television Commission*

Direct Line 0171 306 7743  
0171 306 7744

12/95

13 February 1995

## **APPLICATIONS RECEIVED FOR MIDLANDS FRANCHISES**

By the deadline of noon on 13 February, the ITC had received a series of applications for the local delivery franchises for Tamworth, Lichfield, Burton upon Trent and Hinckley.

The applicants, and the amount of their cash bids, are:

**For Tamworth, North Warwickshire and Meriden**  
(Percentages of qualifying revenue (PQRs - see Notes to Editors) payable are 0% for Years 1-10, 1% for Years 11-15)

1. Tamworth Cable Communications Ltd, a wholly-owned subsidiary of Fundy Cable Communications Ltd (a 23% shareholder in LCL Cable Communications, the existing franchisee for Leicester and Loughborough), to serve 43,315 homes and making a cash bid of £743,400.
2. Central Cable Ltd, a wholly-owned subsidiary of Birmingham Cable, to serve 50,527 homes and making a cash bid of £200,000.

**For Lichfield, Burntwood and Rugeley**  
(PQRs payable are nil throughout the fifteen year licence period)

1. Lichfield Cable Communications Ltd, a wholly-owned subsidiary of Fundy Cable (see above), to serve 39,290 homes and making a cash bid of £680,400.
2. Cable Communications South East Staffordshire, a wholly-owned subsidiary of SBC CableComms (which operates the franchises for the Black Country and Telford), to serve 40,000 homes and making a cash bid of £300,000.



For Burton upon Trent, Swadlincote, Ashby-de-la-Zouch, Coalville and Uttoxeter

(PQRs payable are 0% for Years 1-5, 1% for Years 6-10, 4% for Years 11-15)

1. Burton upon Trent Cable Communications Ltd, a wholly-owned subsidiary of East Midlands Cable Holdings Ltd (in which the shareholders are SaskTel and Fundy Cable who together own 79% of LCL Cable Communications), to serve 77,675 homes and making a cash bid of £1,561,700.
2. Diamond Cable (Burton-on-Trent) Ltd, a wholly-owned subsidiary of Diamond Cable (Nottingham) Ltd, to serve 85,600 homes and making a cash bid of £1,501,001.
3. NYNEX (UK), an associated entity of the existing franchisee for Derby, to serve 80,400 homes and making a cash bid of £263,000.

For Hinckley and Bosworth

(PQRs payable are 0% for Years 1-5, 2% for Years 6-10, 8% for Years 11-15)

1. Hinckley Cable Communications Ltd, a wholly-owned subsidiary of LCL Cable Communications (the franchisee for Leicester and Loughborough), to serve 31,204 homes and making a cash bid of £10,000.

The cash bid (representing a lump sum to be paid every year) supplements the percentages of qualifying revenue already set by the ITC. These monies accrue to the Treasury.

Further details of the applications, and in particular of the technical plan proposed by each applicant, may be inspected from later this week in the ITC library at its Foley Street headquarters and in each of the ITC regional offices.

The next step is for the ITC to consult with the Telecommunications and Posts Division of the Department of Trade and Industry and the Office of Telecommunications (OfTel) to establish that the technical plans proposed by the applicants are acceptable to them. The ITC must also be satisfied that the proposed telecommunication system is in each case capable of being established in accordance with the timetable proposed and that the applicants will be able to maintain the service throughout the period of the licence. For this purpose, the ITC will be evaluating the confidential business plans submitted by the applicants, and may seek additional information if that course appears necessary.

The Broadcasting Act provides that, if the technical plans are acceptable and it appears to the ITC that each applicant would be able to maintain the service throughout the franchise period, the licence would normally be awarded to the highest bidder. There is no programme or service quality threshold to be satisfied.

The ITC hopes to be in a position to announce its decision in the Spring.

**Notes to editors**

1. Qualifying revenue for these purposes is specified by the Broadcasting Act 1990 as being that revenue associated with the delivery of programme services. Revenues from telephony are not included.
2. The invitation to apply for the four Midlands local delivery franchises was issued on Friday 18 November 1994.
3. Press enquiries regarding the applications themselves should be directed as follows:-

Tamworth Cable  
Lichfield Cable  
Burton upon Trent Cable  
Hinckely Cable

Either Alan Chaney  
0116 233 4001  
or W N Beckman  
0116 233 4124  
at LCL Communications

Central Cable

Ron Lawley  
Birmingham Cable  
0121 694 2901

Diamond Cable

Gary Davis  
Diamond Cable  
0115 952 2240

Cable Communications SE Staffs

Either  
Roger Wilson  
Midland Cable  
0384 838483  
or  
Jerry Howe  
SBC CableComms UK  
0483 751756

NYNEX UK

Eugene Connell  
NYNEX CableComms  
0181 540 8833



*Independent Television Commission*

Direct Line 0171 306 7743  
0171 306 7744

10/95

6 February 1995

## **APPLICATIONS RECEIVED FOR NORTHERN IRELAND FRANCHISE**

By the deadline of noon on 6 February, the ITC had received four applications for the local delivery franchise for Northern Ireland.

The applicants, and the amount of their cash bids, are:

1. CableTel Northern Ireland Ltd, a subsidiary of International CableTel Inc, with coverage of at least 428,000 homes by 2003: a bid of £14,418,188.
2. CableComms, a joint venture between NYNEX CableComms and Northern Ireland Electricity, with coverage of at least 382,000 homes by 2001: a bid of £8,600,000.
3. NITEL Ltd, a joint venture between Matav-Cable Systems Media Ltd of Israel and Cable Management Ireland Ltd (and prospectively KPN Kabel BVio of Holland), with coverage of at least 469,710 homes by 2006: a bid of £6,202,000.
4. TeleNorth Ltd, a consortium of United International Holdings Inc and Riordan Communications Ltd (and prospectively Mercury Communications), with coverage of at least 447,963 homes by 2005: a bid of £2,251,000.

The cash bid (representing a lump sum to be paid every year) supplements the percentages of qualifying revenue already set by the ITC which are 0% for the first ten years and 2% for the last five years of the fifteen year local delivery licence. These monies accrue to the Consolidated Fund for Northern Ireland.

Further details of the applications, and in particular of the technical plan proposed by each applicant, may be inspected from Wednesday 8 February in the ITC library at its Foley Street headquarters and in each of the ITC regional offices.

The next step is for the ITC to consult with the Telecommunications and Posts Division of the Department of Trade and Industry and the Office of Telecommunications (OfTel) to establish that the technical plans proposed by the applicants are

acceptable to them. The ITC must also be satisfied that the proposed telecommunication system is in each case capable of being established in accordance with the timetable proposed and that the applicants will be able to maintain the service throughout the period of the licence. For this purpose, the ITC will be evaluating the confidential business plans submitted by the applicants, and may seek additional information if that course appears necessary.

The Broadcasting Act provides that, if the technical plans are acceptable and it appears to the ITC that each applicant would be able to maintain the service throughout the franchise period, the licence would normally be awarded to the highest bidder. There is no programme or service quality threshold to be satisfied.

The ITC hopes to be in a position to announce its decision in the Spring.

**Notes to editors**

1. The invitation to apply for the local delivery franchise for Northern Ireland was issued on Thursday 20 October 1994.
2. The area for which applications were invited consisted of the whole of Northern Ireland, which comprises about 530,000 homes.
3. An earlier cable franchise for Belfast, granted in 1983, was revoked by the ITC in 1991 following the failure of the licensee, Ulster Cablevision Ltd, to implement its plans.
4. Press enquiries regarding the applications themselves should be directed as follows:-

CableComm either Mr Eugene Connell  
NYNEX

0181 540 8833

or

Mr Patrick Haren  
Northern Ireland Electricity  
01232 661100

CableTel

Mr Barclay Knapp  
CableTel UK Ltd  
01483 254000

NITEL

Mr Edward Mercer  
Allison and Humphreys  
0171 570 6000

TeleNorth

Mr John Riordan  
TeleNorth Ltd  
010 353 61 410400